

Earth First!

ACTION UPDATE

RESIST MUCH, OBEY LITTLE

NUMBER 8

DECEMBER 1993

20P



Against strong local resistance, the construction of the disastrous M11 linking continuing and snail's pace with serious cost to the authorities. This three and a half mile slab of tarmac will destroy 350 houses - part of Epping Forest and Hackney Marshes but has a long way to go. Since early November there has been a constant vigil and on 6th December the fence around George Green Wanstead was torn down in scenes resembling the Peasants Revolt.

The felling of an ancient chestnut tree was delayed when a tree house was declared a legal dwelling by the High Court requiring a Compulsory Purchase Order from the DoT. (Just how do you

volunteer 250 year old tree?). On December 7th the DoT's stance toughened and at 5.15am around 300 security and police arrived to be greeted by the same number of 'Protectors' who had been there in the pouring rain since 4am! Protectors chained themselves together - armocked inside metal tubes - facing inwards around the trunk of the Chestnut with five rings of people protecting them. People were punched in the face, knied in the groin, pulled by the ears and pressure pointed - pensioners and children were not excluded.

Despite this extreme provocation, no-one fought back, allowing the police

violence to be clearly seen on TV. This has led to numerous claims against the police. By 8 am the chestnut tree at the centre of the struggle had a tight cordon of police around it. An hydraulic platform was moved in inch by inch as people were removed from its path. The police brutality was incessant - a sobering thought for future actions.

One by one the people in the tree were removed - by sawing branches off, punching people and generally endangering life. They were held up for a while by one person handcuffing himself to the hydraulic arm of the platform. Finally at 1.15pm in a final act of environmental terrorism the tree was ripped apart by an excavator. Tree sitters in other trees were also removed - one being dragged out by a rope tied around his feet. On Saturday 11th Dec police were again grappling with protesters who were trying to remove fences on George Green.

Despite the loss of these trees, this is only the start for the police and DoT. Three of four contracts have yet to be awarded and up to thirty houses are being squatted. Unlike some campaigns, this has had strong local support since the tree was smashed apart. George Green has already been the site for a Carol Service. However we need many more people, homes are being bulldozed right now!

If you witnessed police violence or want to get involved call the M11 campaign office now on 081 530 5709.

ACTIONS.....ACTIONS.....ACTIONS.....ACTIONS.....ACTIONS

**TWYFORD
DOWN
JAN 3rd
See Page 2**

**Faslane
Peace Camp
March
18th - 20th
See Page 2**

**TEXAS D-I-Y
28th Feb
See Page 2**

**The last
action
update...
see back page**

Elfs in Holland

We've heard that during International Earth Week, fairies and elfs have been earthing themselves and getting back to nature worldwide. Word has been blown through the trees that some elfs and fairies gathered in Holland for a party. As if by magic, slogans appeared on the walls of the Scientific Council and strangely its doors would not open. Blood sports equipment seemed to collapse in terror when they heard the fairies rustling in the trees. As to be expected on Earth Night, those things tearing, mauling, raping and polluting the earth seemed to be frozen in their tracks. The road monster and autosaurus were also the subject of machief as a gentle reminder to the sticky situation they are creating. The elfs and fairies warned 'they would defend the earth in radical ways from nature destroying objects, authorities and companies: elfs and fairies world-wide will be showing their love for the earth on

**February 14th - the next
International Earth Night!!**

ERT...we're shut

Ever wondered who the invisible 'thinktank' is behind the EC's more horrific plans (eg. 12 000km of new motorways)? Look no further than the European Round Table of Industrialists (ERT) - a group which includes Volvo, Nestle, Fiat, Shell BP, all your favourites. Europe's most powerful lobbying group, whose recommendations instantly metamorphose into EC law, to expose this group and to let them know we know what they are doing, over 50 activists from around Europe (inc. ERT) occupied their offices in Brussels on 16th December. EC diplomats phoning in were bewildered to be told that the ERT had been shut down and taken over by the citizens of Europe. Recommended reading for anyone fighting road schemes are 'Missing Links and Missing Networks' by ERT, available from ERT Secretariat General, 15 rue Guimard, 1040 Brussels, Belgium. For more info contact Kate at Oxford EFI.

NVDA Training

15th-16th January 1994 at Leeds University Union
Facilitation, decision making, dealing with violence, legal and media training
Contact Leeds EFI asap to let them know numbers. Bring cash for food

Asterix and the Road Monster

The government's road programme unfolds with Asterix and the Road Monster in the story of one tiny village's attempt to halt the planned M600 - an '8 lane motorway' which stretches from Aberdeen to Lands End and back up to Blackpool. With the words 'no compromise' the village takes on the might of the Roman army Group 4. This book is ideal to sell at all anti-road demos. Written by West Country EFers with the sole intention of stirring up trouble and further opposition to the road lobby. A non-profit making venture. send £1 and a SAE. to GAMO: c/o 151b London Rd, Camberley, Surrey GU15 9JY for copies

NatWest Update

Since September, when NatWest's International Division was occupied by 24 homeless people at their money green magic, the bank has been concerned the attention might spread and defeat their attempts to con the public that it is some sort of green god. Hilary Thompson (head of their environmental unit) who spoke at the conference, has written a 11 AMR to try and clear the air. However, at the end of the day NatWest like all the big banks, still refuses to publish its ethical and environmental lending criteria. So why not call her and let her know your views. Tel 07 726 1166 and fax 071 726 1163

Lloyds and Midland Boycott

Action Alert and the Country Living Freshers Week by students ensured that these two saw a real loss of accounts (See LAMB Newsletter 13). But even better, none of these ghouls have let up in the last two months. As a result, the Midland have asked to meet the campaign and discuss upcoming good news. The bank should have received the answer to this request by now, another bout of actions. We want to see real movement, before we engage in rounds of tea and biscuits at head office. We'll keep you posted.

NEWSFLASH!!!!

Another successful bank action in Liverpool on Dec 12th. An occupation of their main branch led to Midland finally admitting to having no environmental lending criteria and, more importantly, that their debt managers would meet LAMB with LAMB setting the agenda first. Direct Action works - they're on the run!

For more details/action dates
contact Paul M 061 225 7128.



Ethical shoplifting ta

Since the first CRISP Action at **Norw** outbreak of ethical shoplifters! This ethical mahogany trade came to a conspicuous several broadsheets reported ethical shoplifting.

Dozens of activists in Brighton, **Edinbu** Southampton entered various stores in them of some of these suspect goods in the nearest police stations - without leaving a bad look of customers, the affronted to confronted with these CRISP (Citizen's Property) Officers and their boards, and stolen from indigenous reserves in Amazon. Investigate the source of the mahogany, or a £275 solid mahogany table from Harrods, in these actions continue to offences to theft. Five CRISP-Officers (on 7th November in Manchester. After it was only too familiar with hearing EPI act to steal - what a bloody joke! The Crowl force and a month later dropped the charge. Norwich CRISP-Officers but two **Stroud** activists.

Harrods

Friday 10th December - Britain's best kn of all shades of green (iep. Greenpeace) hogony is Murder! Meanwhile inside the upholding Brazilian law, ethically shoplift hogony bathroom scales. In a nail-biting security guards stalked each other round attempts to remove tables were foiled, ar to enter Harrods again (shame), over £11 lifted and taken to the local police station, promised an investigation into our claims I embarrassing for Harrods and another n Carry on liberating that illegally logged lu may follow B&Q's example of ceasing to contracts are completed). And next time prosecuted enjoy the irony, then nick i FOR CRISP actions contact Norwich C National Texas Actions 28th February

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Ethical shoplifting takes it away !

Since the first CRISPO Action at **Norwich** (see AL 7), there has been a contagion of ethical shoplifting fever! This, the latest tactic in the fight against the illegal mahogany trade, came to a conspicuous head on Saturday 11th December when several broadsheets reported ethical shoplifting activities happening around the country.

Dozens of activists in **Brighton, Edinburgh, London** (see below), **Manchester** and **Southampton** entered various stores displaying mahogany products and relieved them of some of these suspected goods, 'whisking' them away from the shelves and to the nearest police stations - without leaving a tip of course - and despite the confused look of customers, the affronted looks of staff and the topping of mannequins. Confronted with these CRISP (Citizens Recovery of Indigenous Peoples' Stolen Property) Officers and their boards, and informed that the items were suspected stolen from indigenous reserves in Amazonia, the bemused police were asked to investigate the source of the mahogany, be it a £27 toilet seat from Texas Homecare or a £275 solid mahogany table from Harrods.

Participants in these actions continue to risk arrest on charges from public order offences to theft. Five CRISP-Officers (out of 25) were held for seven hours in police cells on 7th November in **Manchester**. After the day's second action, where the mannequin was only too familiar with hosting EFL actions, the five were charged with conspiracy to steal - what a bloody joke! The Crown Prosecution Service (bless them) saw the force and a month later dropped the charges. Similarly, a case was dropped against **Norwich** CRISPOs but two **Stroud** activists are due to appear in court in January.

Harrods

Friday 10th December - Britain's best known store is surrounded by 100+ protesters of all shades of green (yes, Greenpeace and FoE were there too) shouting 'Mahogany is Murder'. Meanwhile, inside the store, CRISP Officers (See EFL A17) are upholding Brazilian law, ethically shoplifting rather tasteless items - including mahogany bathroom scales. In a nail-biting game of cat and mouse, activists and security guards stalked each other round and round the furniture dept. While some attempts to remove tables were foiled, and the activists served banning orders never to enter Harrods again (shame), over £1000 worth of mahogany was successfully 'lifted' and taken to the local police station, where they declined to arrest anyone and promised an investigation into our claim that mahogany is stolen goods. All pretty embarrassing for Harrods, and another nail in the mahogany trade coffin. Carry on liberating that illegally logged lumber and sooner or later the rascal retailers may follow B&Q's example of ceasing to stock mahogany (at least until existing contracts are completed). And next time you see a sign that says 'Shoplifters will be prosecuted, enjoy the irony, then nick it!'

FOR CRISP actions contact **Norwich** CRISP-O on 0603 631007

National Texas Actions 28th February 1993 contact Mcr EFL Tel: 061 246 9224

Carmel Woods & Gwent Valley

Legend has it that at the time of greatest need, a bell shall ring and Owain Llwgoch (the Welsh equivalent of Arthur) will rise to save the country and people against its oppressor. The time is nigh, and already the troops are gathering. The Gwent Valley is the battleground between the Greenpeace Mercants of Alfred McAlpine Quality Products Ltd and those who undervalue the value of beauty and wildlife. The area is of international importance. It includes ancient woodland, an artificial lake, caves, ancient artifacts, myths and legends. To prepare for a possible direct action on the 18th of November, local campaigners met together in the valley to discuss the NVDA in their campaign. Action from Oxford EFL came along to give a personal view of NVDA and explain what is now being planned. Campaigners then went to the local police station and gave a warning to the police. People are invited to use tactics in their local campaigns.

Contact: Tim 0558 685

Bedford Bypass Inquiry

At the public enquiry for the proposed Bedford southern Bypass, protesters argued that a bridge should be built beneath the road to allow cyclists and pedestrians to use the former Bedford railway line.

The bridge was turned down and the Bypass will go ahead without making any allowances for cyclists and pedestrians. The railway will never re-open and the bypass is complete as it would be 12m to build the bridge.

Help is urgently needed in getting a group to fund the bridge and start road being built.

Contact:

D Henderson Tel: 0763 5164

Reclaim the Land

March 18th -20th.

In order to help themselves build on to blow people up the MoD a local valley to build a road to the Faslane nuclear base. Now that construction is finished, the road is supposed to be returned to nature. Surprise! The MoD want to keep transporting their nuclear convoy is currently being fought, but in order to ensure Nature's victory, people will be assembling there to reclaim the land and practice their skills with a pickaxe.

Contact: 0436 820901



kes it away!

chiseled away) there has been a contagious latest tactic in the fight against the illegal head on Saturday 11th December when lifting activities happened around the

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Carmel Woods & Gwenlais Valley

Legend has it that at the time of Wales greatest need, a bell shall ring and Owain Llwgoch (the Welsh equivalent of Arthur) will rise to save the country and people against its oppressors. The time is nigh - and already the troops are gathering. The Gwenlais Valley is a battleground between the Greed Mercants of Alfred McAlpine Quarry Products Ltd and those who understand the value of beauty and wildlife. The area is of international importance: it includes ancient woodland, an ephemeral lake, caves, ancient artifacts and myths and legends. To prepare for possible direct action on the 18th & 19th of November local campaigners got together in the valley to discuss the role of NVDA in their campaign. Activists from Oxford EPI came along to give their personal view of NVDA and examples. Actions are now being planned! Oxford activists then went to the FoE Cymru office in Cardiff and gave workshops of NVDA. We also now intend to use these tactics in their local campaigns.

Contact: Tim 0558 685353

Bedford Bypass Inquiry

At the public inquiry for the proposed Bedford Southern Bypass, protestors argued that a bridge should be built beneath the road to allow cyclists and pedestrians to use the former Bedford Gandy railway line. This was turned down and the Bypass will go ahead without making any allowances for cyclists, pedestrians etc. The railway will never re-open once the bypass is complete as it would then cost £2m to build the bridge. Help is urgently needed in getting the council to fund the bridge and stop the road being built.

Contact:

D Henderson Tel: 0763 51649

Reclaim the Land

March 18th - 20th.

In order to help themselves build weapons to plow people up, the MoD trashed a local valley to build a road to the Haslane nuclear base. Now that the construction is finished, the road was supposed to be returned to nature. Surprise! The MoD want to keep it for transporting their nuclear convoys. This is currently being fought, but in order to ensure Nature's victory, people will be assembling there to reclaim the land and practice their skills with a pick axe.

Contact: 0436 820901

Tales of Twyford

On Sun 28th Nov - the first lunar eclipse since Yellow Wednesday (the day Group 4 and police moved in on the Down) - a play, poetry reading and slides told the tale of Twyford and the Dongas people then parted on St Catherine's Hill. Early on Monday morning the spirit and the magic of the dragon reawoke, as 150-200 protestors invaded the site. This caused havoc and stopped the road-building machines as they made their way up along the cutting. The police presence was minimal and the action finished rather ironically with Group 4 on a digger and protesters forming a ring around it!

The road monsters hope to open one of the carriageways by March and have started laying aggregate and tarmac on the slip roads.

Mass Demo Jan 3rd -

Contact Road Alert on: 0703 237 809

We've heard that pick axes are next year's fashion item.

Rights not Charity

Manchester & Leeds Fillets joined forces with Indigero Ind Power and the disabled branch of Direct Action Network (DAN). DAN's comment: Children In Need hides things such as cut in the standard of living - a second class education and access to public transport and buildings. Behind smiles and inner Underground Power asserts that: 'The issues of young people's rights are brushed under the carpet by charity stunts like Children In Need. We should be concentrating on the real issues such as institutionalised oppression of young people in schools - 60 people stormed the Playhouse Theatre chanting: Rights not Charity - consequently the Leeds broadcast was postponed.

Contact: Underground Power

061 248 9224

British Aerospace

BAe make military aircraft and sold 24 Hawk aircraft to Indonesia who invaded East Timor nearly 20 years ago. In this short time they have murdered a third of the population of East Timor. It is believed that BAe are now planning to sell 144 more Hawks to Indonesia. Such a deal may spell the end for these Timorese people and must be stopped. People are planning a day of NVDA, vigils and leafleting at a northwest BAe factory in the early spring. There will be a training/planning day for this action on Sat 15th Jan 10am at Longsight library in Manchester.

Contact Tricia 061 881 7460 or

Chris Cole 071 275 9150

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These addresses have been e-mail compiled by Manchester EFPs. Changes are in bold. If you know of any corrections, want to change your address, or be included, please contact us by post, phone or fax!

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This could be the last Action Update It is published by volunteers and quite simply Manchester Earth First! has no more money to do the Action Update. Everyone agreed it is important. How can we go forward if we don't know where we are? But it costs money £200 for printing and postage. Individuals seem to be able to come up with the dosh, but if EPI groups don't send us money for the copies we're sending out now, there is no way we can do another one. This is serious!! If each group gets 50p of 10 people, that's a fiver to each group and we'll be sorted for the next issue.

Also, given our situation we can't manage to go on sending out after groups to find out what's going on. You should be telling us when things happen. Let's learn from each other and not depend on the bloody media multinational. Ask for this we send you on love, strength and solidarity and hope for a revolution soon.

Disclaimer

This is a compilation of acts as we have been sent. It is for entertainment purposes only. Manchester EPI Group neither condones nor endorses anything in this publication.

For fuck sake the planet is in trouble!!!!

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Please send me the next five copies of the EF! Action Update (starting with no 9). I will pay £2 not in cash (cheques payable to Earth First! Action Update).

Name

Address

From Manchester EPI Dept 29 1 Newton St Piccadilly Manchester M1 1HW

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